

Amanda McAtee Co-Chair
Loretta Harper-Brown
Debbie Harrington
Elisha Jenkins



Holly Vaughn Wagner, Co-Chair
Sonya Lawrence
Wayne Marsh
Kevin McAllister
Mary Ann Mieczkowski

STATE OF DELAWARE

Division for the Visually Impaired Task Force

Meeting Minutes (draft) – December 20, 2019

Holly Vaughn Wagner, Joint Legislative Oversight and Sunset Committee (JLOSC) Legislative Attorney and Task Force Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Other task force members present were Amanda McAtee, JLOSC Analyst and Task Force Co-Chair, Mary Ann Mieczkowski, Director of Exceptional Children Resources at the Department of Education (DOE) representing Susan Bunting, Secretary of Education, Sandra Miller, Division for the Visually Impaired (DVI) acting Director, Wayne Marsh, Blind Vendors Committee Chair, Dr. Debbie Harrington, Higher Education. Loretta Harper-Brown, Sonya Lawrence, and Kevin McAllister were absent. A quorum was met.

Co-Chair Vaughn Wagner asked everyone to review the minutes from the October 30, 2019 meeting. Mary Ann Mieczkowski made a motion to approve the October 30, 2019 meeting minutes, Wayne Marsh seconded the motion, no opposition, motion passed. Members not present for the vote included Loretta Harper-Brown, Sonya Lawrence, and Kevin McAllister.

Co-Chair Vaughn Wagner stated the purpose of the task force was to research and discuss tabled recommendations and provided an overview of meeting rules for the order of the meeting. The task force would conclude with this meeting, but the work would continue under the JLOSC review process. Co-Chair Vaughn Wagner thanked the task force members, consultants, and the public for their assistance during the process. Co-Chair Vaughn Wagner explained that the draft report would be reviewed and discussed during this final meeting with the understanding that additional proofreading, technical, and/or formatting changes would be made prior to submission to JLOSC.

Co-Chair McAtee explained the contents of the draft report which included the additional research she completed. Co-Chair McAtee explained that she completed independent research and also collaborated with consultants and the agency. Her additional research followed topics that typically surface during a JLOSC review such as program functionality in other states, national trends, population numbers affected, funding, current state statutes, and legislation impacting the topic.

Co-Chair McAtee led the task force in discussion of the draft report. Dr. Debbie Harrington requested that Senate Resolution 8 be included with the final report. Co-Chair McAtee stated that a summary was included in the draft report under meeting 1 and she would attach the resolution in the appendices of the final report. Dr. Harrington expressed

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concern that staff turnover and the agency's recent leadership change was not mentioned in the report. Co-Chair Vaughn Wagner stated that the draft report did not focus on staffing since it was not a topic covered by the task force's purpose, which was to discuss the tabled recommendations. Co-Chair McAtee stated that if any past or present agency employee would like to submit written public comment on their experience, she would include it in the final report.

Dr. Harrington requested clarification regarding the customer satisfaction survey results and objected to their inclusion in the executive summary. She cited concerns with the overall message the report would send back to JLOSC. Co-Chair McAtee explained that the executive summary included main points of interest from the entire draft report and customer satisfaction survey results would have been included if the data showed a low satisfaction score. Co-Chair McAtee stated that the report did not draw conclusions since the task force was information gathering and JLOSC would make final determinations during the review process, DVI was still in holdover status. Co-Chair Vaughn Wagner requested Dr. Harrington email the task force co-chairs a brief, 2-3 sentence statement by December 30, 2019 regarding the customer satisfaction survey and it would be included in the executive summary and final report.

Mary Ann Mieczkowski and Wayne Marsh requested that the polling results of the task force members be provided in the report independently from the total polling results in each meeting summary. Sandra Miller stated that she appreciated the effort that went into collecting the report data and the report contained valuable information that is needed in order to make good decisions.

Co-Chair Vaughn Wagner stated the discussed changes would be applied to the final report and called for a vote. Mary Ann Mieczkowski made a motion to approve the draft report with necessary corrections and was seconded by Wayne Marsh. The motion carried 5-1, Mary Ann Mieczkowski, Sandra Miller, Wayne Marsh, and Co-Chairs McAtee and Vaughn Wagner voting in favor, Dr. Debbie Harrington opposed, 3 absent (Loretta Harper-Brown, Sonya Lawrence, and Kevin McAllister).

Co-Chair McAtee concluded the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully prepared by:

Amanda McAtee and Mark Brainard, Jr., JLOSC Analysts, Joint Legislative Oversight and Sunset Committee.

Access to the audio recording of this proceeding is available upon request.